



Sandra J. Dearden, President

October 7, 2005

Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: STB Ex Parte 658
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**RE: THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STAGGERS RAIL
ACT OF 1980: A REVIEW AND LOOK AHEAD**

Please add my name and address to the service list as a party of record with intent to participate in the public hearing to provide a forum for the expression of views on the impact, effectiveness, and future of the Staggers Act, to be held at the Surface Transportation Board beginning on Wednesday, October 19, 2005. I am willing to accommodate the Board's schedule, but prefer the afternoon of October 19.

PARTY OF RECORD

Sandra J. Dearden, President
HIGHROAD Consulting, Ltd.
29 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60603

In my testimony, I will be addressing the following topics:

- Sunset of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the impact on agency staff to monitor and enforce regulations.
- The benefits realized by shippers and carriers from the Staggers Rail Act.
- Comments on the impact on the decline of rail revenues.
- Examples where railroads have violated regulatory requirements.
- The impact of the loss of common carrier obligation on some commodities and shipment types.
- The impact of mergers on rail operations and service, capacity, and on rail customers' costs.
- Railroad pricing practices, including rates and accessorial charges; some railroads are directing markets.
- Changes that should be made to improve the Staggers Act and to enhance the role of the Surface Transportation Board.

This original is being filed electronically as provided for in the decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Sandra J. Dearden', written in dark ink.

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